the employees was Rs.20,90,721.35

(c) Yes Sir. The amount of the total pay bill in the year ending 1996 was more by Rs.2,88,83,218.75 in comparison to that of March, 1993.

(d) The Super Bazar, Delhi has reported that during the said period, transport allowance, sales promotion (refreshment) expenses/other expenses paid were as follows:

(i)	Transport allowance (by reimbursement)	Rs. 18,40,383.95
(ii)	Sales Promotion (refreshment expenses)	Rs.77,829.25
(iii)	House Rent Allowance	Rs.59,96,855.30
(iv)	Compensatory Allowance	Rs.5,45,580.05
(v)	Medical Allowance & Medical Reimbursement	Rs. 12,99,518.20

(e) Such overheads are of a compulsory nature and cannot be linked to sales only. It is however, true that sales have been declining during the last few years as follows:

1997-98	Rs. 126.80 crores
1998-99	Rs. 125.27 crores
1999-2000	Rs. 83.01 crores

There are also less goods available for sale because suppliers have reduced supplies because of lack of timely payments etc.

Loss of Foodgrains by Rodents ETC.

5052. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about two crore tonnes of foodgrains worth more than Rs.40,000 crores is lost every year due to attacks of insects, rodents, moisture, birds, micro-organisms, etc.,

(b) what is Government's estimate about such damage and loss of foodgrains, per year, item-wise, for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent such massive loss and damage to foodgrains in the country when about 35% of the country's population still lives below poverty line and are undernourished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Exact quantum of foodgrain losses during post harvest period at farm level due to insects, rodents, moisture, birds, micro-organisms etc. is not known. However, a Committee headed by Dr. V G Panse, in its report submitted in 1968. had estimated annual post harvest losses in the foodgrains in various stages at 9.33%. These included losses during threshing (1.68%), transportation (0.15%), processing (0.92%), rodents (2.50%) birds (0.85%), insects (2.55%) and moisture (0.68%). A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Government of India, during 1973-74, had estimated post harvest losses in foodgrains to be about 5% out of which the storage losses were estimated at about 2.7% A joint survey conducted by the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute during 1985-88 in Bulandshahar district of UP had estimated total foodgrain losses at about 4.12% due to different factors at various post harvest stages. However, the losses in foodgrains during storage in the organised sector is less than 0.5% as given below:

(Figure in %)

Year	F.C.I.	C.W.C.
1997-1998	0.40(provisional)	0.46
1998-99	0.40(provisional)	0.43
1999-2000	Data not compiled	

(c) In order to reduce losses to foodgrains during the post harvest period, the Government of India had launched the Save Grain Campaign in 1969-70. The main thrust of activities of this Scheme is training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at the farm level. Improvement of grain storage structures and popularisation of scientific storage structures like metal bins, pucca kothis and RCC ring bins and other activities are carried out by the Save Grain Campaign for the benefit of farmers.

Reimbursement to Gujarat for Transportation of Palmolien

5053. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: